

State Senator
GAYLE SLOSSBERG

Legislative Update

With Crisis Comes Opportunity

The budget is settled but our efforts to find savings and efficiencies in government are ongoing. The economic crisis has highlighted the need for our government to be spending smarter -shifting from a bureaucratic approach to a competitive, results-based approach. The Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes was created to aid in this shift. As co-chair of this commission, I am pleased to tell you that idea by idea we will continue to identify efficiencies and reduce costs to taxpayers. There is still more work to do and I encourage your suggestions. The commission's web site is online at **www.cga.ct.gov/gae/CEAO**.



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MY PRIORITY: Protecting Families, Seniors, Small Businesses and Our Communities

The Fight for a Fair Budget

In September, the General Assembly and Governor Rell agreed on a budget for the next two years. The compromise budget includes more than \$3 billion in spending cuts—the largest reduction in state history. We achieved this by cutting costs in every agency throughout all parts of government. During this difficult economic time, the state had to make cutbacks and sacrifices just as families have been doing.

At the same time, we were able to protect middle-class families, the elderly, children and the poor from devastating cuts to critical services. Thanks to these efforts, employment and job training services, early childhood programs, school readiness programs and library resources will be spared deep cuts.

The budget is not perfect but it makes important strides toward stabilizing Connecticut's economy and helping families survive this difficult time. I hope that you will contact my office if you have any questions about Connecticut's new budget.

Small Businesses: The Backbone of Connecticut's Economy

During this past legislative session we took important steps to help protect Connecticut's small businesses and their workers from the recession.

A recession is the wrong time to eliminate state support for small businesses. That's why we opposed efforts to shut down business incubators, economic assistance grants, and supply-chain initiatives—all of which help businesses boost productivity and grow jobs.

Small businesses need our support, which is why I voted in favor of legislation that will help keep an eye on regulations that might impact our small businesses. The law, which was effective October 1st, requires that any state agency proposing a new regulation must first identify its affect on small businesses and submit that analysis to the General Assembly.

Additionally, by passing the SUSTINET bill we are on our way to making affordable health care coverage available to small businesses, including the self-employed. Once fully implemented, SUSTINET is expected to save individuals and businesses in Connecticut \$1.7 billion.